

The Washington Times

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New Public Buildings Needed.

The Government Practices False Economy in Leasing From Private Landlords.

The House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds has just reported a bill fixing at \$1,500,000 the limit of cost for a new home for the Department of Agriculture. In recommending the construction of this building the committee pays The Washington Times the compliment of reprinting in full its protest of three weeks ago against the penny-wise, pound-foolish policy under which the business of the Government is allowed continually to outrun the facilities furnished for its transaction.

Chairman Mercer and his colleagues cordially indorse The Times' contention that Congress should provide each Government department with a building or buildings in which its work can be done with the maximum of efficiency and comfort. They agree that the present method of dispersing a single department's forces under many roofs savors both of shabbiness and of false economy.

As The Times showed in its issue of December 6, the Government now pays as rent for the many office or other buildings it occupies in whole or in part \$210,000 annually. After February 1, 1903, it will be paying \$260,000.

The wastefulness of this contribution to the purses of private landlords is evident. The Federal Treasury can borrow money any day at a rate of interest as low as two per cent. Calculated on that basis the capital represented by the Government's annual rent outlay would be \$13,000,000.

That sum would construct and equip from six to eight new public buildings, relieving the pressure and congestion now felt in all branches of the service, and fitting appropriately into that general scheme of beautification, along whose lines Washington is to grow into a world's capital of surpassing attractiveness.

Every consideration of dignity, of economy, and of business judgment urges the erection for each department of a habitation—beautiful in design and ample in accommodations—which it may truly call its own. The hand-to-mouth method of short and costly leases now inuring to the profit of a few real estate holders, is unworthy of a rich and powerful nation.

It may commend itself to a clique of local interests, bent on extracting extravagant rentals from the Federal Treasury. But it cannot appeal to public pride or to enlightened sentiment, for it sacrifices the interest of many to the interests of the few. It hampers progress. It blocks the road to the District's true business and artistic development.

As a capital Washington needs above all things some new and adequate department buildings. The construction of a new home for the Department of Agriculture is a belated step in the right direction. It should be followed by the erection of at least three other buildings to house the many department bureaus now forced to depend on the costly hospitality of private landlords.

NOVELTIES IN DIVORCE.

The New French "Mutual Consent" Law and Its Practical Workings.

Those who believe that the facilities for obtaining divorce are already too numerous in the United States, and especially so in certain sections of the Republic, view with concern the favor accorded in certain circles to the proposed movement in favor of a "mutual consent" amendment to the existing laws.

Proposals toward that end have their origin in the new French law of divorce, which provides inter alia for the severing of the marriage tie in the cases of men and women who find their bonds irksome and who desire release from the ties of marriage. The new French law declares that "the mutual consent of the parties is sufficient proof that their life together is insupportable and that there exists between them a peremptory cause for divorce."

Certain restrictions are attached to this extraordinary addition to the new justification, according to the French view, for rupturing the marriage bond. It is provided, for example, that no husband under twenty-five years of age and no wife whose age is less than twenty-one shall be qualified to avail themselves of the "mutual consent" solution of their problem. Moreover those whose married life has not reached two years and others who have lived in wedlock for twenty years are alike denied the right to have the new law applied to their marital difficulties.

A still stranger exception is made in the cases of wives who are over forty-five years of age, probably on the assumption that women of that age are not entitled to have a "second try" in the marriage market. What to many people will doubtless seem the most fantastic of all the peculiar features of the new measure is the clause which renders the production of satisfactory evidence of the consent of the parents of both applicants imperative before the petition for divorce is considered. A provision of that nature is calculated to lead to the formation of a group of professional parents who will, for a consideration, play the necessary parental parts.

What those in haste to be divorced and wedded to other mates will regard as a serious drawback to the mutual consent provision is the prohibition of the marriage of either party within three years

from the date of the divorce. Should divorced persons desire to remarry each other they are barred from doing so if one of them has in the interval been wedded to a third party and obtained a second divorce.

When a disgruntled couple resolve to be set free by the mutual consent proviso they are first asked to make an inventory of their entire possessions, real and personal, and distinguish their respective rights. Then follows a statement of how they intend to dispose of the children of the marriage, where the wife shall reside until the application is passed upon and what amount of alimony the husband shall pay during the interval, should the lady not herself have means of support.

These preliminaries accomplished, the applicants are obliged to appear together before the president of the district civil court and make declarations of their desires in the presence of two lawyers brought by the parties. The judge "shall make to each, in the presence of the two notaries, such remarks and exhortations as may seem to him appropriate, shall read to them the chapter of the code relating to the effects of divorce and show them the consequences of their step."

Should the judicial homily not turn the unhappy petitioners from their purpose they are required to file with the lawyers the certificates of their births and of their marriage, the certificates of the births and deaths of their children, if any, and the declarations of their parents or grandparents, if living, testifying that the application is consented to. The declarations have to be renewed within the first fortnight of each of the fourth, seventh, and tenth following months, the wife in the meantime having retired within twenty-four hours of the filing of the first application to the house already agreed upon.

Sometime during the first two weeks after the expiration of twelve months the applicants, attended by two friends, both well known in the neighborhood and none of them less than fifty years of age, must again appear in court. Should their previous determination be maintained the declarations, etc., shall be sent by the district judge to the city or town council for final adjudication.—New York Press.

"Unconsidered Trifles."

In the Happy Hunting-Grounds.

It was after the Thanksgiving dinner, and the shade of the turkey had just been introduced to the shade of the peacock served at a Roman banquet, 200 A. D.

"Dear me," said the peacock, "how fashions have changed!"

"In what respect?" asked the turkey timidly.

"Why, when I appeared in society I was most beautifully dressed, in trailing robes of plumage. You also say you are dressed, but the dressing does not appear."

"Yes," said the turkey proudly, "the boys did say it was out of sight. Were you eaten?"

"No," said the peacock sadly.

DAWN OF THE FARMER'S DAY.

By the Hon. JOHN W. BOOKWALTER.

THIS is the dawn of the farmer's day. A struggle between the urban and the rural population of the country is in the initiative. In population the two elements are about equally divided. While they are half and half numerically, in wealth there is the widest divergence. The total wealth of the country is estimated at \$85,000,000,000. Of this, but \$20,000,000,000 is in the hands of the rural population, or less than one-fourth of the total wealth of the country. This inequality did not always exist. Prior to the civil war wealth was measurably about equally divided. The separation began with the imposition of the high tariff, and the adoption of the land grant system, which in almost one generation developed an area equal in productive capacity to that which required in the East several centuries to produce.

The one made the farmer buy at the highest prices, while the other made him sell at the lowest. Millions of acres of cheap land in a few years began furnishing the world breadstuffs, and as it did so the value of every acre of Eastern farm land was correspondingly impaired and cheapened. With the tariff on one side as an enemy and the cheap lands on the other as a menace, it was not long until money seeking investment flowed eastward. Agriculture had been rendered unprofitable.

Year after year the land was rapidly taken up. Eventually the entire supply was exhausted. With this exhaustion came a slow but gradual rise in the price of cereals. Demand now follows swiftly on the heels of supply. No longer does a vast surplus stare the country in the face to fill outward bound ships. Nature is restoring the equilibrium.

The two causes enumerated put agriculture for many years at a disadvantage. Low prices prevailed, and there was little or no encouragement to engage in farming.

When the lands west of Indiana were opened for settlement their development was unequalled, by reason of the readiness and ease with which smooth, unfenced fertile prairies and plow fields of the West could be put in a state of cultivation. East of this region centuries had been consumed in felling trees, grubbing and draining to get lands in condition for remunerative harvests. West of this dividing line the farmer was able to do on the prairies lands, ready for the plow the first season, more than the farmer east of it had been able to do in decades. Immense areas of the prairie land were soon under cultivation. From them came a deluge of grain that poured over the old States and Europe. Prices were shattered and agriculture in the old States almost ruined.

But once more prices are reaching their old level. There are practically no more public lands to fall back upon. Grain will remain high. The farmer will take the place in the world for which he was destined and once did occupy.

If the lands west of Indiana had been covered with timber, and had had the same impediments to their develop-

ment that existed on the lands east of the dividing line, you can imagine how slow the development would have been. The area of cultivated lands would probably today have extended but little west of the Mississippi River. Today we would not have had more than 50,000,000 people, and our railroads would not have measured 100,000 miles in length.

The period of depression has passed. Recently J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway Company, declared that the supply of public lands was practically exhausted, and that there was need for reforming the tariff. He realized the truth, as the whole country must at an early day.

The prices of agricultural products will never again fall to a low level. Capitalists, aware of the situation, are now reaching out to buy farm lands. They know there is no safer or better investment. Land cannot burn down. There is no element of risk in holding it. This investment has taken money by the millions away from New York. It will not return in the same volume as heretofore. New York's financial stringency is largely explained by the fact. But not only New York, but Chicago is distressed. Out in Topeka, Kan., a newspaper dispatch the other day related that there is a modified stringency, such as now affects the two large cities named, out there. Money is going out to Kansas into farm lands.

The era of whilom cheap grain will never return. The Eastern fellows, for many years favored by class legislation, no longer have the advantage.

In time an intense feeling between the urban and the rural population may develop. The ruralist will be held responsible for prices that will be fixed by natural causes, and not by combinations, as will probably be charged.

The change, the cause of the stringency of today, means a redistribution of the world's wealth. That taken from the agriculturist by discriminating legislation and acts will return to him through the operation of natural laws.

The time may not be far distant when the East will want to go to South America, instead of Kansas and Nebraska, for its beef.

With this change will probably come representatives of agriculture in Congress. Now there is none. In other countries, where it has not suffered through odious laws, it has been a prominent force in legislation. France has its agricultural section in the chamber of deputies, headed by the fearless Melin. The element under his leadership has become a dominating force in that body. In Germany the Agrarians are active, alert, aggressive, and tireless. The United States, in time, will see their power in influence duplicated in this country.

As a result of the prominent and progressive position of agriculture in France, the wealth there is about equally distributed between the urban and the rural classes.

IN THE COURTS AND CAPITALS OF THE OLD WORLD

Filtering the Society of the Egyptian Court at Cairo—Abbas Pasha Encounters Much Opposition—Italian Court Also Becoming More Exclusive—Princess Hohenberg Emerging From Her Retirement.—Long Terms of Service in Ministries—German Interest in American Banking.

Reforming the Court at Cairo.

Tourists who visit Egypt this winter will experience a good deal of difficulty in securing invitations to the Khedivial balls and entertainments. For Abbas Pasha, the ruler of the land of the Nile, who was educated wholly at Vienna, is becoming more and more exclusive, and possessing a much more extensive acquaintance than either of his two predecessors concerning the social status and antecedents of foreign visitors makes use thereof to close his doors to those who he believes would not be admitted either to court or the best society in their own native land.

This, of course, is giving rise to a great deal of grumbling and disappointment on the part of those who are the subjects of the unfriendly discrimination of the Khedive, and I hear that this has been particularly marked in connection with the fetes given in honor of the recent visit of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught to the Egyptian capital.

A Wonderfully Mixed Assembly.

In former times, the Khedivial court was the meeting ground of some of the most unsavory people in all Europe. The Christians who formed part of the Khedivial entourage were men of the shadiest antecedents, while their womenkind were even worse. Indeed, things reached such a pass that whenever a foreign diplomat married a lady with a past, and who was as such barred from any European court, he was at once sent to Cairo, the doyen of the diplomatic corps for a time being a dame who had eloped with the son of the prime minister of one of the smaller states of Europe whom she had married after she had been divorced from her first husband in a rather sensational manner. In fact, the late Lady Cromer, one of the most charming and lovable of women, often found herself brought into contact with European women enjoying an official position at Cairo, but whom she would never have permitted to cross her threshold in England.

Italy and Egypt Are Now Exclusive.

All this is changed now and of late the Khedivial court has become so exclusive that it has ceased to be the happy hunting ground of all that was questionable in the official, as well as in the social circles of Europe.

The Italian court, which was formerly very accessible also, has likewise become a good deal more exclusive, especially with regard to foreigners, than in the days of King Humbert and of his father. Invitations are now a good deal more difficult to obtain, and more sparingly distributed, the foreign envoys being required to vouch personally for the social standing of those of their countrymen who are admitted. Indeed, the only courts of the Old World where foreigners are still welcomed, without being subjected to too severe a scrutiny are those of Athens, where by reason of the fierce political jealousies of his subjects, King George is obliged to depend entirely upon the society of foreigners when he dispenses hospitality, and Belgrade and Sofia, especially Belgrade, where indeed King Alexander and

his consort Queen Draga are grateful for any token of respect and consideration shown to them by foreign visitors.

A Princess of Doubtful Rank.

Princess Hohenberg, the consort of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir apparent to the Austro-Hungarian throne, whose marriage is regarded as morganatic in Austria, and as full-fledged in Hungary, is gradually emerging from that background and retirement in which she kept herself during the earlier period of her marriage. For although she has not yet appeared at court at Vienna since her union to the archduke, yet she has begun to accompany him when he makes stays with royal and imperial personages abroad.

Thus the archduke and the princess have just spent a week with the German Kaiserin's only brother and his wife, the Duke and Duchess of Schleswig-Holstein at Prinzenau, and not in any way incongruous. For the archduke and his wife were attended by a large suite, including his new chief of the household, Baron Rumerskirch. This is only one of a series of visits in which the archduke has been accompanied by his wife, the princess, and while it does not mean that she is recognized abroad as an archduchess, or as a full-fledged princess of the imperial house, yet it indicates that she no longer proposes to maintain that reserve and seclusion which characterized her attitude during the first and second year of her marriage.

May Prove a Political Power.

The princess is a wonderfully clever woman, whose influence over her husband is unbounded, and being extremely ambitious and possessed with a pronounced taste for politics, she is expected by the leading statesmen, not only in Austria, but also abroad to play a very important role in the future destinies of the Austro-Hungarian empire. It is perhaps because this is recognized that foreign royalties are beginning to concede to her an amount of attention and deference not usually accorded to morganatic wives.

The princess, who is by birth a Countess Chotek, has a son by the archduke, and there are many, especially in Hungary, who are of the opinion that this boy may some day become a rival of her nephew, young Archduke Charles Francis (eldest son of Archduke Otto), for the throne, if not of Austria, at any rate of Hungary. Indeed, Archduke Charles Francis, now a boy of fifteen, who has been educated at the public grammar schools of Vienna sitting beside the sons of petty shopkeepers and of working people in the most democratic fashion, is regarded by the inhabitants of the Austrian metropolis with a more than ordinary amount of interest, because it is generally believed his succession to the throne may be contested, at any rate in the Magyar portion of the empire.

A Quarter-Century Term of Office.

Baron von Riedel has just celebrated at Munich the twenty-fifth anniversary of his appointment to the post of minister

of finance of Bavaria, which he has held for a quarter of a century without any interruption whatsoever. This prolonged and undisturbed tenure of a cabinet office is almost unique in the annals of the constitutional history of Europe, the only other instances being that of the late Prince Bismarck, who was premier of Prussia for twenty-eight years, and that of Baron von Welsershelm, the Austrian minister of national defense, who has held office for about twenty-six years. But in these two instances the ministers were kept in office by their respective sovereigns irrespective of the wishes of parliament, and as agents of the throne rather than of the legislature, whereas Baron von Riedel, who has reorganized the entire financial system of Bavaria, has remained in office throughout with the sanction and good will and the confidence of the Bavarian chambers.

Kaiser's Envoy an American.

The Kaiser has been paying a visit to the Duke of Ujest at Slawentzitz. The duke is the elder brother of that Prince Hugo Hohenlohe who has been for some time past in this country, and who has now run over to Europe to spend the Christmas holidays with him. Prince Hugo's position here has never been thoroughly understood. His means are ample to enable him to dispense with the necessity of working for a living, and if for the past few months he has been working with one of the principal German-American banking establishments of New York it has been without pay and for no other purpose than obtaining a thorough insight into American business methods, which, according to ideas in high quarters in Berlin, are the true source of American greatness.

MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.

THE SEA.

I stand upon the summit of my life,
Behind the camp, the court, the field,
The grove.

The battle, and the burden; vast, afar
Beyond these weary ways,—behold, the Sea!

The sea, o'er-swept by clouds, and winds,
And wings;

By thoughts and wishes manifold; whose
Breath

Is freshness, and whose mighty pulse is
Peace.

Palter no question of the horizon dim—
Cut loose the bark! Such voyage itself
Is rest;

Majestic motion, unimpeded scope,
A widening heaven, a current without
Care.

Eternity! Deliverance, promise, course,
Time-tired souls salute thee from the
shore.

—Brownlee Brown.

Safe.

"I wonder if there are any corporations
in heaven?"

"Of course not. They're no souls to go
there."

"Oh! And they can't be punished as
they deserve, either, can they?"

Statesmen and Their Ways.

Why Taft Declined.

A year ago Senator Hanna saw the fix he would be in when the rival claims of Herrick and Dick for the Ohio governorship became aggressive. To avoid embarrassment he tried to induce Judge William Taft, now governor of the Philippines, to return and become the candidate for governor. He presented the proposition so vigorously and in such attractive form that for a moment the colonial governor was swayed. In making his decision he spoke of the fact that the public engagements for the remainder of his life were already disposed of. He said that for the next two years his duty would hold him in the Philippines, and after that it was his ambition to return to the bench. It is well known that Judge Shiras will remain on the bench until Governor Taft has finished his work in the Philippines. Then the Ohio man will be off red his place. This prevented any consideration of the urgent solicitation of Mr. Hanna to get Judge Taft into the gubernatorial race.

Hemenway for Governor.

The Hon. James A. Hemenway will leave Congress to become governor of Indiana. A number of Mr. Hemenway's friends were in Washington last week, and announced the conclusion that they would insist upon presenting as their candidate for governor the Representative in Congress from the First district. The subject of all this discussion now admits that he will retire from legislative life and make the race for governor. One of the reasons which impel him to change his political condition is that his district is naturally a Democratic one, and he maintains his place in Congress only by determined fights. He candidly admits he is tired of a campaign which never ends. Another reason—and it is one which he will not admit as having anything to do with the matter—is the fact that he will be in position to contest for Senator Beveridge's seat in the upper branch of Congress. The other candidate for the Senator's place is Governor Durbin.

A Fairbanks Movement.

Hemenway is of the Fairbanks organization in Indiana. While his candidacy for governor will be in no sense factional, it is recognized by all Hoosiers that he is one of the ablest lieutenants in the regular organization, which is completely controlled by the senior Senator. The intention of finding opposition to Senator Beveridge, however, is probably entirely apart from the gubernatorial candidacy of Hemenway. In fact, Governor Durbin, who is a vigorous opponent of the junior Senator, would much prefer to have Mr. Hemenway in Congress to cavorting around the State interfering with his secret plans.

Old Dynasties Tumbling.

The tumbling of old political dynasties in many of the States is a noteworthy feature of contemporaneous political events. The period of control through organizations usually runs in cycles, with more or less definite marking. In New Jersey the struggle is to furnish something in place of the old Sewell organization. Just what will occur is not clear, and it is not certain how long it will take, but that some powerful organization will evolve out of the struggle is inevitable.

In Ohio the old Sherman organization passed to McKinley and Hanna, and now it is announced that new hands will

come to the front immediately after the election of Hanna to the United States Senate next time. Anticipating this, young men are fighting their way to the front.

In Massachusetts the supremacy of Senator Lodge is seriously threatened by the younger element in Republican politics. In the great States of New York and Pennsylvania it is plain that within a few years—and very few, indeed—new and younger men must come to the front as managers and politicians. In Michigan the old organization passed out of existence with the death of Senator McMillan. Newer men unknown even over the State are working to the front in the slowly developing machine of the near future.

In Minnesota the old Merriam control passed out of active political life two years ago, and a set of rugged youngsters under the real direction of Senator Nelson have taken their place. In Wisconsin the old-timers will re-elect Senator Spooner with their dying political breath, and then turn the party affairs of the Badger State over to a lot of impetuous youngsters who march with varying fidelity and devotion under the banner of LaFollette. He may not be the new leader. Some of his followers surely will be. In Indiana the State goes into the steady Republican column under the guidance of the gradually strengthening and practically new organization of Senator Fairbanks.

In Illinois there is utter party demoralization from a Republican standpoint, but a vigorous crowd of untitled political fighters are going through the same hand-to-hand struggle for supremacy, and out of this is certain to come a well organized band of experienced political workers who will have control of the party matters in the State.

In short, all along the line one notes an ending of the old and beginning of the new.

Policy Is Changed.

Presto, change, and the Administration comes to the aid of the "black and tan," goes to the relief of the ejected, and the "illy whites" receive jolts where they had expected jolts. But unfortunately for Senator Pritchard he had gone too far to retreat; for him the die was cast, and right manfully he has been fighting the fight which means a white supremacy in the Republican party in the State or a bi-colored control. Now the issue is just this, whether the President shall reappoint the Hon. Meyer Hahn as collector of the port of Newberne, and the Hon. Samuel H. Vick postmaster at Wilson, thus recognizing the "black and tans," or whether he will be guided by the wishes of Senator Pritchard and make his selections from the "illy whites."

It means much to the people of North Carolina and the party there. Vick is colored, and Hahn is white, but politically both are "black and tan." If Senator Pritchard wins, and he has been bringing all possible influence to bear, it will mean that he is the recognized leader in the State; and it will also mean that the alliance with the negro is terminated and that he may take his belongings and depart from the Republican party; but if Senator Pritchard loses, it will mean that he is discredited, and that the white Republican party in the State might as well abandon hope of maintaining an existence. The outcome is awaited with interest. There has been the suggestion of a compromise whereby the "black and tans" may win, but that Senator Pritchard, when he retires from the Senate, shall be made a Federal judge in the new judicial circuit to be created in North Carolina. This plan has not yet matured.

THE ROOF OF THE WORLD.

Sven Hedin's Exploration of Central Asia and Its Results.

To the current number of the "Geographical Journal" Dr. Sven Hedin contributes a concise summary of his remarkable explorations in Eastern Turkestan and Tibet during the last three years. His former journey in Central Asia—from 1893 to 1897—was thought, as he modestly observes, to mark an advance in the geographical knowledge of these regions, but he considers the results of this one to be much more valuable. In it he has traversed a great extent of hitherto untrodden ground, and has been able, as he justly claims, "to lift the veil which for a thousand years has hidden vast stretches of the mountainous and desert regions of the heart of Asia." They are without a rival on the surface of the globe.

The mountain chains of Central Asia radiate from the Pamirs—the roof of the world—like giant roots from an old tree stump. Two of these, the vast compound mass of the Himalayas and Karakoram and the chain of the Kuen-lun, inclose the greatest and loftiest mountain plateau in the world, not a little of which overtops Mont Blanc, and much is as high above the sea level as the summit of the Wetterhorn—a region of scorching heat in the summer sun and bitter cold in the winter frost. Between the Kuen-lun and the Thian-shan is another plateau, more level and lower, sinking eastward down to the great rainless Gobi desert. On his former journey Dr. Sven Hedin's explorations carried him over Turkestan from the foot of the Thian-shan to the Loh Nor. This time he has not only worked out many points previously incomplete, but has examined the desert still farther east, and explored a large area of Eastern Tibet from north to south. He was turned back, though without injury, in two attempts to penetrate as far as Lhasa, and finally made his way westward to Leh.

Traveling in such regions is very laborious and entails much hardship, yet Dr. Sven Hedin's industry seems unaffected by fatigue. The amount of work he has accomplished is prodigious. His cartographical material, he says, consists of not less than 1,140 sheets, which, if arranged end to end in a row, would measure over 1,000 feet; 114 astronomical

determinations have been secured to check this; he has kept a complete meteorological journal, making records thrice a day; he has taken over 2,000 photographs, made archeological, zoological, and botanical collections; besides bringing about 700 rock specimens to illustrate the geology of Tibet, of which at present very little is known. Throughout, he says, he endeavored to avoid traveling over routes already traversed by other explorers. But the earlier part of his journey was in a region which he had already visited, Northern Turkestan, its object, which was completely successful, being to trace accurately the course of the River Tarim.

Both that and the less important Chirchen-Daris are frequently changing their course, abandoning one channel to excavate another. The former river shows a constant tendency to shift left toward the south, and on that side throws off numerous arms or secondary channels, into which occasionally it diverts its main stream. These vagrant tendencies are rendered easy by the nature of the region traversed—an arid lowland, with the shifting sand dunes for hills. In one place, on the right bank of the Tarim, a chain of long lakes bordered by sterile sands has been formed, which are continued between dunes sometimes more than 100 yards high.

The ancient lake has now completely dried up, but on its northern shore he found ruins of towns, settlements and temples, as well as manuscripts and tablets of tamarisk wood in Chinese characters, dating from the third to the fifth century of the present era, together with indubitable traces of an ancient caravan road. His former journey was rewarded by similar archeological discoveries farther west in Turkestan, so that evidently the region was much more flourishing some fifteen centuries ago. Partly this has been the work of man, but perhaps it is still more due to a change in climate. A very large proportion of Central Asia, not only in the region east of the Thian-shan, but even in that to the west of this chain, seems to be gradually drying up, but what may be the cause of the desiccation no one can venture to declare positively.—London Daily News.

In the Public Eye.

Miss Mildred Howells, daughter of William Dean Howells, has drawn the designs for a "whist calendar," which are in color. Quotations from authorities on whist and authors who have written about the game accompany the drawings.

A Gainsborough, consisting of portraits of the painter's two daughters, was sold not long ago in London to an unknown purchaser for \$25,400. In 1864 it was sold for \$555.

Hamlin Garland is spending the winter in New York, and is at work on a series of short stories dealing with the American Indian.